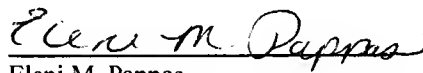


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: SCHWARTZ Confirmation No.: 1470  
Serial No.: 10/598,223 Group Art Unit: 3774  
Filed: August 22, 2006 Examiner: LEVINE, Joshua H.  
Title: ARTICULAR CARTILAGE FIXATION DEVICE AND METHOD

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to  
Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia  
22313-1450, on December 14, 2009.

  
Eleni M. Pappas

Date of Signature: December 14, 2009

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Introductory Comments**

This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Response to Office Action is being filed in response to a final Office Action mailed on August 18, 2009 for the above-referenced application. Since this Request and Response are being filed on or before December 18, 2008, this Response includes a petition for one-month extension of time to file and the requisite fee. The RCE fee is also submitted herewith. Thus, this Response is timely filed.

**Amendments to the Specification** appear on page 2 of this paper. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.